

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-21 remain for consideration. The allowability of claims 5 and 13 is acknowledged. All remaining claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

The Final Office Action fails to establish that claims 1, 4-12 and 14-21 are anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,191,994 to Ooishi et al. (hereinafter "Ooishi") for at least the reasons set forth in the response filed on March 18, 2005, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Furthermore, the Final Office Action identifies Ooishi's components 13a-13x and 14 and node N4 as corresponding to Applicant's recitation "a current mirror adapted to provide the operating current to the common node" in claim 1. Ooishi teaches, however, that components 13a-13x and 14 do not supply operating current to common node N4, but rather teaches that all of the current supplied by components 13a-13x and 14 is consumed by internal circuit 2A. (See column 6, lines 45-49). No current, therefore, is available to be supplied to node N4 by components 13a-13x and 14.

Still further, the Final Office Action identifies Ooishi's components Vref 4A and 10 as corresponding to Applicant's recitation "a stabilizer coupled to the common node and adapted to provide a compensation current to the common node" in claim 1. However, components Vref 4A and 10 apparently do not supply current to node N4. Rather, Ooishi teaches that the current flowing from transistor 10 through node N5 and, therefore, through node N4, would be none, or considerably small. (See column 6, lines 52-55). No current, therefore, appears to be available from transistor 10 to be supplied as compensation current to node N4.

Further still, the Final Office Action identifies Ooishi's components 12, 17a-17x, 18, 19a-19x, and 20 as corresponding to Applicant's recitation "a load coupled between the common node and a reference supply and adapted to conduct a portion of the operating current and, therefrom, establish the operating voltage at the common node" in claim 1. As discussed above, however, Ooishi teaches that the current supplied by components 13a-13x and 14 is consumed by internal circuit 2A. Therefore, no current seems to be available at node N4 to be conducted by

components 12, 17a-17x, 18, 19a-19x, and 20 from which an operating voltage may be established.

Independent claims 6, 15, and 16 set forth substantially similar limitations as discussed above in relation to claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 1, 6, and 15-16 patentably distinguish over Ooishi and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-5, 7-14 and 17-21, which are dependent from independent claims 1, 6, and 16, were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ooishi. While Applicant does not acquiesce with the particular rejections to these dependent claims, it is believed that these rejections are now moot in view of the remarks made in connection with independent claims 1, 6, and 16. These dependent claims include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims, and recite additional features which further distinguish these claims from the cited references. Therefore, dependent claims 4-5, 7-14 and 17-21 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

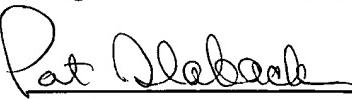
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on June 27, 2005.

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